

Nixon Ready to Reform State Dept.

By Jack Anderson

A vexed President Nixon, who vowed before his inauguration to shake up the State Department, is now more determined than ever to turn the place upside down.

The President has grumped privately that he got nothing but negative advice from the State Department regarding his round-the-world trip. The Foreign Service, apparently convinced that only career diplomats can solve international problems, resents the meddling of amateurs. The President, in the view of the striped-pants crowd, is a rank amateur.

The career diplomats, for example, stuffily advised the President against going to Romania. It would also be a mistake, they warned, for him to visit Vietnam. His appearance at these sensitive spots, they declared gravely, could upset delicate diplomacy.

As tactfully as possible, they suggest it would be better to let the professionals handle matters. They pointed out that their negotiations could be reviewed carefully before any policy decisions were made, whereas the President might be pressured into making an awkward decision on the spot.

The pirouette-and-protocol boys also opposed the frank discussion of American aims in Asia that the President gave newsmen in Guam. His State Department advisers wanted him to play his diplomatic cards close to his chest.

As it happened, the President produced his best results doing what the State Department solemnly advised him not to do. He came back with the conviction that the top levels at the State Department have become fogbound down at Foggy Bottom. He definitely intends to clear the air.

Note: Previous presidents have found it difficult to make

progress against the bureaucratic blubber, which gives way to presidential pressure but invariably returns to its original form. President Kennedy once compared the experience to grappling with a whale. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who tried sparring with the naval bureaucracy, said it was like boxing a feathered.

U.S. and Red China

Communist China had just started to emerge from its diplomatic isolation when the new Chinese-Russian clashes broke out along the Sinkiang border.

For the first time since the Red Guard convulsions, Peking began to send its ambassadors back to the capitals of the world. President Nixon decided even before he was sworn in to seek a normalization of relations with the Chinese mainland.

This is pure heresy, incidentally, to the China lobby, which has supported Nixon in the past.

The Chinese made the first overture by calling for a renewal of the Chinese-American talks in Warsaw. Two days before the appointed date in February, Peking abruptly cancelled the meeting, with a propaganda blast at the United States.

The President had planned to send the American negotiators to the meeting with a friendly offer to relax the travel and trade ban against Red China.

Despite the rebuff, he decided last month to remove some travel restrictions anyhow as a unilateral step toward relaxing Chinese-American tensions. He also asked the Romanians during his Bucharest visit to pass the word to Peking that the United States doesn't seek a Vietnam settlement that would threaten China.

Again, all Nixon got for his gesture was another rebuff. The Chinese attacked his motives and sent a charge d'affaires to head the Chinese embassy in Warsaw. This will make it awkward to renew the Chinese-American talks, since the Chinese have always insisted on holding these talks at the ambassadorial level.

Nevertheless, the President will continue his efforts to restore normal relations with the Chinese Reds. As the next step, he will ease trade and travel restrictions some more.

If the Chinese should reciprocate, Nixon — the onetime darling of the China lobby — would be willing to withdraw American objections to seating Red China in the United Nations.

Note: With the Russians hammering on their back door, the Chinese may see an advantage in reducing tensions with the U.S. On June 12, this column reported that a top-secret intelligence analysis had speculated on the possibil-

ity that Moscow might stage his-and-run strikes at China's nuclear laboratories and armament centers in order to eliminate China as a nuclear threat.

Germ Warfare

The Defense Department is battling behind the scenes against President Nixon's move to curb the development of nerve gases and germ warfare.

The generals have submitted evidence to the National Security Council that Russia has a far greater stockpile of chemical and biological weapons than does the United States. The only way to prevent the use of these weapons, the generals argue, is to have the capability to retaliate.

The National Security Council has asked the Defense Department, State Department and Arms Control Agency to prepare a thorough study of the problem.

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